

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Setting up a National Cotton Board

1175. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposed to remove all restrictions on export of cotton and set up a National Cotton Board to help the farmers;
- (b) if so, the recommendations of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in this regard; and
- (c) the action proposed to implement the recommendations for improving the lives of farmers and weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The government has already removed all restrictions on export of cotton with effect from 2nd July, 2001. The Working Group on Textiles, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, envisages the setting up of a National Cotton Board of India. However, at present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

NIFT Plans to help Handloom Weavers

1176. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Fashion Technology has worked out plans to help the handloom weavers with better designs and market;
- (b) if so, the details of the understanding reached especially with APCO; and
- (c) the interest shown by the weavers to involve with the ideas of NIFT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the NIFT is providing trends and forecasts for the National Centre for Textile Design to enable weavers to use them to better respond to

the needs and demands of the market and to prepare them for the same. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the context of revival of Handloom Sector in the State in general and with reference to APCO in particular, had requested NIFT, Hyderabad to study the problems confronted by the handloom and powerloom sectors in the State and indicate the strategy for revival. Accordingly, a comprehensive report has been prepared and submitted to the State Government.

Closure of Powerloom Units in Andhra Pradesh

1177. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out the number of powerloom units which closed in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are aware that many powerloom owners unable to bear the closure of their units and repay their loans committed suicides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures initiated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) As per available information, about 30 powerloom weavers of in and around Sircilla division of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh committed suicide mainly due to the following reasons:—

- (i) High incidence of indebtedness.
- (ii) High power tariff and lack of un-interrupted power supply.
- (iii) Prevalence of disease, and
- (iv) Poor marketability of end products i.e. low quality fabric due to obsolete and low technology looms.